



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1021E-651
Introduction to Sociology
Summer 2016
Online

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Ricard

Email: sricard2@uwo.ca or Sakai Messages (preferred)

Course Description:

This course will provide a general introduction to the study of human society. It is designed to familiarize the student with the basic concepts and explanations commonly utilized within the major areas of sociological investigation.

Antirequisite:

Sociology 1020, 1025, 1026, 1027

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core areas of Sociological investigation.
- Apply theory and sociological research to interpret current events and case studies.
- Identify and analyze theoretical perspectives in Sociology, and assess the conceptual differences among them.
- Write theoretically-informed papers that make a sustained, evidence-based, sociological argument, and present ideas and sociological concepts clearly.

Course Portal:

The on-line version of Introduction to Sociology makes use of SAKAI, a course management system found on the University's server– <https://owl.uwo.ca>. Once you have entered the above URL, you will be prompted for your user name and password. Information about getting started with on-line courses can be found by accessing the Distance Studies Office.

Required Texts



Brym, R. J. (ed). 2014. *New Society* (7th edition). Toronto: Nelson.

****Please try to buy a used copy of this text as we will be switching to the 8th edition for the fall/winter session.****

There is also an eversion of this book available from the publisher at about half the cost of the hard copy-

<http://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/ISBN/9780176662202?cid=APL1>

Evaluation

Term 1	Term 2
Formal Discussion Question #1: 5%	Formal Discussion Question #2: 5%
Participation: 5%	Essay: 25%
Midterm Exam: 25%	Participation: 5%
Library Module: 5%	Final Exam: 25%

Due Dates

All course requirements are due at 11:59 pm.

Posted Discussion Question #1:	May 30, 2016
Library Module	June 13, 2016
Midterm Exam	June 18, 2016
Posted Discussion Question #2:	June 27, 2016
Essay:	July 11, 2016
Participation:	Continuous– sections close Sunday after a topic is covered. Cut off dates noted in forums.

Lecture Notes:

Lecture notes are available through the side menu on the left hand side of your screen. Each week's lecture(s) are labelled according to week and topic. Lecture notes are automatically released to students the Monday of the week we cover the topic at 12:00am. Students are responsible for all of the specified readings, even if they are not covered extensively in lecture notes or discussions. Exams will be based on a combination of readings and lectures.

Exams:

Exams will be based on the material covered in the on-line lecture notes and on the assigned readings. Both exams will be 2 hours in length. Each of the exams will consist of multiple choice, true and false and identification/ short answer written questions.

Note: Both the midterm and final exams for this course must be taken in person at a designated exam location.

Essay:

Sociology 1021E is a designated essay course and as such, each "student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course."

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbring.pdf.

Furthermore, as stated in the academic calendar, "[t]he structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course."

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbring.pdf. It is imperative that you submit an essay in order to pass. You must receive **50% or above** on your essays in order to pass the course.

Library Module:

The library module will be run by the university librarian and will count for 5% of your final grade. This module is designed to give students knowledge of how to use the online university library system and has been a great resource for students. Details will be posted within the course site.

Essay Guidelines:

Complete essay guidelines concerning topic, essay format, expectations, etc. are posted on the course site in the evaluations (assignment) section. There are two essays for this course—one due in the first term and one in the second term. You will be graded on both form and content. You will be using the assignment submission feature of OWL to submit your essay. Your essays must be submitted no later than 23:59 (Eastern Time Zone) on the due dates. Assignments submitted to OWL are date and time stamped. Turnitin.com is integrated into the new OWL software and your essay will be scanned upon submission.

Late Essays:

There is a 3% deduction, per day (including weekends), for essays submitted past the deadline (for example, if you received 76% on your essay, but it was 2 days late, you would receive a 70%). After 14 days, no essay will be accepted and will automatically receive a 0.

Posted Formal Discussion Questions:

Part of your grade in this course will be based on two separately posted formal discussion questions. Think of these discussion questions as mini-essays—they are designed to help scaffold your major course essays. These questions will be posted in the forums section of the course under a separate topic category (eg. Discussion #1, Discussion #2). The advantage of the feature is that the messages are ‘threaded’ together around an original posting that raises a specific question for discussion. The question will be posted one week (7 days) before the discussion question is due. The due date of the discussion questions is noted above. Once the question is posted, students have one week to contribute to the discussion. There will be no excuses accepted for late submissions as everyone has an entire week in which to log on and overcome any technological difficulties that may unexpectedly arise. In addition, it is clearly indicated on the course outline when these discussions will take place therefore, holidays, other school/ work commitments will not suffice as excuses. *If you miss a discussion question, absolutely no late responses will be accepted. If you do not post a response, you receive a zero.* Students’ grades will not be based solely on posting a response to the discussion (eg. simply responding to the question). Both grammar and content will be evaluated. I will be looking for substantive comments in relation to the question-- *it is essential that you relate comments to lecture and reading materials and provide citations.*

Participation Grade:

As the course discussions section allows everyone to read all of the posted messages, we will also use this forum for class participation. Your grade for class participation will be based on your submissions (with the exception of your introductory message and the formal posted discussion questions) to the participation section of the discussions areas. You will be assessed for both the frequency, the quality of and the use of course material in your participation.

You can earn up to 10% of your grade by submitting messages spaced throughout the course related to the course content.

These messages can be:

- in response to one of the questions asked in the course notes
- a response to one of the review questions in the textbook
- you may wish to share your thoughts or ideas on the readings
- you can also apply aspects of the course material to current events
- post a reply comment to another student's post

To receive full marks for this section, it is not enough to merely say that you liked or disliked a reading, topic, point in the lecture notes, etc. – you must explain your position explicitly using the course content to support your position. *You must provide the sources you use for your responses, including the page numbers for the course texts.* It is recommended that you participate at least once per topic to receive full marks for this course component (one posting does not equal one mark).

Since active participation is most beneficial, the participation areas will close on Sundays at 11:59pm of the week after we cover a section in the course. The participation will help keep you on track with the readings and foster a sense of community. Although not for credit, you can also use the discussion area of OWL to ask questions about assignments, exams, etc. I urge you to ask any questions about course requirements, readings, lectures, etc. in the discussions area, instead of by email, as your questions may also be beneficial to your classmates as they may have the same questions or may find your questions useful for their own work. Please note that questions regarding your grades should not be posted on the discussion board– any questions regarding grades should be directed to me via email.

Vigorous academic debate is encouraged. However, students are reminded that in any classroom, courtesy and mutual respect are vital elements of a collegial atmosphere. Hateful remarks, unscholarly examples, or personal attacks are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Important Policies

Departmental Marking Policy:

The Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario has adopted grade distribution guidelines which all instructors are required to follow.

For *Sociology 1021*

- “A”s not to exceed “B”s
- Means in the range of 65-68%

Missed Exams and Late Work:

Requests for academic accommodation will only be granted once appropriate documentations is submitted to the student's academic counsellor and approved by both the counsellor and professor. Submitting documentation does not mean that a request will be granted automatically. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University's “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Compassionate Grounds: a) Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office. b) In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). *This is automatically done for you when you submit your assignment through OWL.*

“Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.” www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf

Electronic Devices in Exams:

The use of electronic devices is NOT permitted in the course exams. Devices must be turned off and left at the front or rear of the examination room.

Scholastic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Mental Health:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Technical Problems When Submitting Assignments:

If you encounter technical problems when submitting any assignment, email your assignment before the due date/time to avoid late penalties. After you have submitted your assignment via email, contact ITS to resolve the problem. *Technical problems are not considered a valid reason for late assignments.*

Reading Schedule

Week	Topic(s)	Readings
Week 1: May 9	What is Sociology?	Brym text.: Chapter 1
	Theory	Lecture: Theory Online Reading: Mills
Week 2: May 16	Methods	Brym text.: Chapter 20 Images of Society: Chapter 3 & 4 Lecture: Methods
Week 3: May 23	Constructing Gender	Brym text.: Chapter 4 & 7 Lecture: Gender
Week 4: May 30	Socialization	Brym text.: Chapter 3 Lecture: Socialization
	Culture	Brym text.: Chapter 2 Lecture: Culture
Week 5: June 6	Inventing the Family	Brym text.: Chapter 10 Lecture: Family
Week 6: June 13	Media	Brym text: Chapter 5 Lecture: Media
	Education	Brym text: Chapter 12 Lecture: Education
<i>June 18-- Midterm Exam (Covers Weeks 1-6)</i>		
Week 7: June 20	Deviance	Brym text: Chapter 14 Online Reading: Milgram Lecture Deviance

Week 8: June 27	Social Stratification	Brym text: Chapter 6 Lecture: Social Inequality
	Race & Ethnic Relations	Brym text: Chapter 8 Lecture: Race and Ethnicity
Week 9: July 4	Religion	Brym text.: Chapter 13 Lecture: Religion
Week 10: July 11	Work	Brym text.: Chapter 11 Lecture: Work
	Health & Aging	Brym text.: Chapter 17 Lecture: Health and Aging
Week 11: July 18	Development & Underdevelopment	Brym: Chapter 9 Lecture: Development
	Population & Urbanization	Brym: Chapter 15 Lecture: Population and Urbanization
Week 12: July 25	Politics and Social Movements	Brym text.: Chapter 18 Lecture: Social Movements
<i>Final Exam– Scheduled by Registrar During Summer Exam Period (August 2-5)</i>		